

CECS College Council – Minutes – 8 December, 2023

Started at 11:00 am

Present: John Abraham (zoom), Mataz Alcoutlabi, Alley Butler, Imanuel Edinbarough (zoom), Erik Enriquez, Majid Hosseini (via Zoom), Domingo Melina (zoom), Thang Pham, Maysam Pournik.

Guests: Sanjeev Kumar (Faculty Senator (Ex Officio/Non-Voting Member), via Zoom)

Absent: Abdoul Oubeidillah, Jae Son, Nantakan Wongkasem.

Minutes:

1. Dr. Pournik discussed the college council's purpose with the members. He proposed using Robert's Rules in meetings, which was approved.
2. Dr. Pournik discussed the process for the selection of the Chair-elect, Vice Chair-elect, and Secretary.
3. The results of college council voting are as follows:
 - Chair-elect: Dr. Pournik
 - Vice Chair-elect: Dr. Hosseini
 - Secretary: Dr. Erik Enriquez
4. The following is a list of items/issues proposed by Dr. Pournik for the college council to work on:
 - The need for college-wide uniform annual and promotion evaluation criteria (teaching, research, services), as it directly affects merit selection criteria and merit raises. Currently, each department has its own set of criteria, leading to unfair merit selection criteria when it comes to meeting/exceeding expectations in annual evaluation, promotion and merit raise.
 - Teaching guidelines related to research.
 - Quality of teaching
 - Culture of service
 - Leadership training program
 - Faculty travel support
 - Graduate student support
 - Workload policy
 - Travel between campuses for teaching
 - Long-term research plans and growth
5. Dr. Butler proposed a discussion on conflicts between the centers and departments (identifying responsibilities)? Is the department chair responsible for them or are they independent of departments.
6. Dr. Edinbarough proposed a discussion on the uniform distribution of resources, research opportunities, and graduate programs in Brownsville. Emphasized that Brownsville is not part of cluster hires.
7. Dr. Kumar proposed a discussion about the lab policy, suggesting a potential change in the number of credits for lab courses from 1 credit hour to 3 credit hours. Also, discussed workload policy from the faculty's point of view.
8. Erik discussed the selection of meeting time and frequency. The decision was to meet once a month from 11 am to noon. The next meeting was proposed and approved for January 26th, 2024.
9. It was proposed to send the list of issues to council members for ranking. The goal is to select at least 5 major issues from the list to work on, with subcommittees formed for each of the 5 major issues.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 pm